

REMARKS

In accordance with the Examiner's request, Applicant submits herewith corrected formal drawings labeling Figs. 10 and 11 as "PRIOR ART".

Additionally, Applicant presents herein a more descriptive title of the invention for the Examiner's consideration.

Also, the typographical error occurring at page 6 of the specification has been corrected. Namely, the specification at page 6, line 20 has been corrected to refer to the width L5 corresponding to side surface 116b.

In response to the objection to claims 1 and 2, the term "parallely" as incorporated into claim 1 has been changed to "parallel". Also, the language of original claim 2 (as incorporated into claim 1) has been amended to employ L and t as generic terms.

Withdrawal of the foregoing objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,970,426 to Bronchart. Bronchart was cited as disclosing a spark plug having a ground electrode substantially as claimed, including a narrower central side surface section than that of the side surface of the other of the opposite sides.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate therein the recitation of claim 2, to thereby obviate the foregoing rejection. Withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 8-213149 (JP '149). JP '149 was cited as disclosing a spark plug including a ground electrode having a pair of opposite sides, one of which is arced so as to conform to an outer circumferential periphery of the front end face of the metallic shell.

Applicant respectfully traverses for the following reasons. The figures in JP '149 show a ground electrode having any of a semi-circle, polygonal or oval cross-section. The semi-circle and oval cross-sections have a much smaller radius than the outer circumferential periphery of the front end face of the metallic shell, and therefore do not conform thereto as required by present claim 10.

Even if the semi-circle or oval cross sections of the ground electrode of JP '149 can be said to conform to the outer circumferential periphery of the metallic shell, these cross sections lack side surface portions 316d shown in Fig. 9B of the present specification. Therefore, to more clearly define over JP '149, claim 10 has been amended to recite that a second pair of opposite sides 316d separates the first pair of opposite sides including side 316b curved outward so as to coincide with the outer circumferential periphery 37a of the front end face 37. Without such a cross-section, the ground electrode of JP '149 would have a smaller cross-sectional area and therefore would not provide the strength of the ground electrode of the present invention.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 10 is neither anticipated nor obvious over JP '149, and withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 1 and 3-10 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/739,306

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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